

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An ambulatory device comprising:

- (a) two side frames, each side frame including a front and back leg;
- (b) a brace connecting the front leg of each of said frames; and
- (c) a seat having front and rear sections, the front section pivotably mounted to said

frames, wherein said seat can be pivoted into at least two positions:

a first position having a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a second position having a substantially vertical orientation;

(d) two support brackets disposed to secure said seat to said frames when said seat is in said first position; wherein said support brackets comprise a top surface and one or more flanges extending substantially along said top surface, and the support brackets provide support for the ambulatory device when said seat is in said first position such that when lateral force is applied to the side frames, the lateral force is distributed along the support brackets and across said seat;

wherein said seat further comprises a substantially flat sitting surface and an under-surface comprising a plurality of walled recesses.

16. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15 further comprising:

(a) a set of brakes positioned to engage one or more wheels on the back legs when a brake force is applied; and

(b) at least one hand brake actuator positioned on at least one of said side frames, wherein said hand brake actuator is used to effectuate the brake force.

17. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15 further comprising a back rest connecting said side frames.

Appl. No. 09/977,122
Amdt. Dated February 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

18. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, further including at least one padded region located on at least one of said side frames.

19. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein said brace is curved outwardly away from said front legs.

20. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, further comprising a locking mechanism, wherein at least one of said side frames can pivot approximately 180 degrees when said locking mechanism is released.

21-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, further comprising a wheel connected to each of said front and back legs.

46. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein said side frames include a substantially u-shaped horizontal support member connecting said legs.

47. (currently amended) The ambulatory device of claim ~~44~~ 15, wherein said side frames also include a cross-member which connects the mid-section of said legs.

48. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 47, wherein said support brackets secure said seat to said cross-members.

49. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein each of said front and back legs includes a height adjustment mechanism.

Appl. No. 09/977,122
Amdt. Dated February 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

50. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15 further comprising a locking mechanism located on each of said side frames, said locking mechanism maintaining said side frames spaced apart and releasable to allow said side frames to pivot inwardly toward the seat when said seat is in said second position.

51. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein said seat in said second position is at least partially in front of said front legs.

52. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein said seat includes a handle.

53. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15 wherein said plurality of walled-recesses comprise at least one walled recess having an open side.

54. (previously presented) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein said plurality of walled recesses comprise at least one walled recess having a partially open side.

55 - 56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) The ambulatory device of claim ~~56~~ 15, wherein said notches are received by one or more portions of said side frames.

58. (canceled)

59. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An ambulatory device ~~of claim 58, wherein said~~ comprising:

(a) two side frames, each side frame including a front and back leg;

(b) a brace connecting the front leg of each of said frames;

(c) a seat having front and rear sections, wherein the front section is pivotably mounted to said frames, wherein said seat can be pivoted into at least two positions;

a first position having a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a second position having a substantially vertical orientation; and

(d) two support brackets comprising a top surface and one or more flanges extending substantially along said top surface and further comprise comprising one or more notches located in said one or more flanges;

wherein said seat further comprises a substantially flat sitting surface and an under-surface comprising a plurality of walled recesses.

60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended) The ~~An~~ ambulatory device ~~of claim 60~~, comprising:

(a) two side frames, each side frame including a front and back leg;

(b) a brace connecting the front leg of each of said frames;

(c) a seat having front and rear sections, wherein the front section is pivotably mounted to said frames, wherein said seat can be pivoted into at least two positions:

a first position having a substantially horizontal orientation; and

a second position having a substantially vertical orientation; and

(d) at least two support brackets, one of which is disposed downwardly on either side of said seat with respect to the first position to secure said seat to said frames when said seat is in said first position; wherein said support brackets provide support for the ambulatory device when said seat is in said first position such that when lateral force is applied to the side frames, the lateral force is distributed along the support brackets and across said seat; wherein said support brackets further comprise a top surface and one or more flanges extending substantially along said top surface and one or more notches located in said one or more flanges.

62. (currently amended) An ambulatory device, comprising:

a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg and a back leg; and

b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically, and the seat including an undersurface having at least first and second pluralities of intersecting walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward from the seat undersurface defining a plurality of downward openings;

wherein the seat, while in the first position, has a forward edge that curves inward and a rearward edge that curves inward, causing the seat to narrow in a central region thereof.

63. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 62 wherein the walls in the first and second pluralities of walls are formed integrally with the seat undersurface.

64. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 62 wherein the walls in the first plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other and the walls in the second plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other.

65. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 62 wherein the walls in the first plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other and the walls in the second plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other, and the first and second pluralities of walls are substantially perpendicular to each other.

66. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 62 wherein the walls in the first plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other and the walls in the second plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other, and the first and second pluralities of walls are substantially perpendicular to each other so that some of the downward openings are substantially rectangular when viewed from below.

67. (previously presented) An ambulatory device, comprising:

- a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg and a back leg;
- b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically; and
- c. a first support flange attached to the first side frame front leg and a second support flange attached to the second side frame front leg, each support flange extending inwardly and capable of providing additional support to the seat when the seat is disposed in the first position.

68. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 67 wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg by a first pivot bracket extending from the first side frame front leg, wherein the first support flange extends from the first pivot bracket, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the second side frame front leg by a second pivot bracket extending from the second side frame front leg, and wherein the second support flange extends from the second pivot bracket.

69. (previously presented) An ambulatory device, comprising:

- a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg, a back leg, and a cross bar between the front leg and the back leg;
- b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically; and
- c. at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames, each support bracket including at least first and second support walls that are spaced from each other and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward to form at least one downward opening support recess, and wherein at least the first and second support

walls each have a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar for support.

70. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 69 wherein the at least two downwardly curving support brackets are formed integrally with the seat.

71. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 69 wherein the inverted-U-shaped recess is deep enough to accept substantially all of the respective cross bar.

72. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 69 wherein at least the first support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by a first connecting wall extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least one continuous wall with the respective support walls.

73. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 69 wherein at least the first and second support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by first and second connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least two continuous walls with the respective support walls.

74. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 69 wherein each support bracket includes an upper support surface and at least a third support wall that is spaced from the first and second support walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from the upper support surface and cooperates with the first and second support walls to form at least two downward opening support recesses, and wherein the third support wall has a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar.

75. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 74 wherein at least the first, second, and third support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected

by first, second, and third connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least three continuous walls with the respective support walls.

76. (currently amended) An ambulatory device, comprising:

- a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg, a back leg, and a cross bar between the front leg and the back leg;
- b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically;
- c. at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames; and
- d. at least a first continuous wall extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket, and that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from a seat undersurface;

wherein the seat, while in the first position, has a forward edge that curves inward and a rearward edge that curves inward, causing the seat to narrow in a central region thereof.

77. (currently amended) The ambulatory device according to claim ~~75~~ 76, further comprising at least a second continuous wall extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket substantially parallel to the first continuous wall, and that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from a seat undersurface and cooperates with the first continuous wall to form at least one downward opening.

78. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 76 further comprising at least second and third continuous walls extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket substantially parallel to the first continuous wall, and that, while the

seat is in the first position, extend downward from a seat undersurface and cooperate with the first continuous wall to form at least two downward openings.

79. (previously presented) An ambulatory device, comprising:

- a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg, a back leg, and a cross bar between the front leg and the back leg;
- b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically; and
- c. at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames; and
- d. wherein said seat further comprises a substantially flat sitting surface and an undersurface and further wherein, while the seat is in the first position, the seat undersurface and at least two downwardly curving support brackets each have at least one downward facing walled opening.

80. (currently amended) An ambulatory device, comprising:

- a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg and a back leg, and a cross bar between the front leg and the back leg;
- b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically, and the seat including an undersurface having first and second pluralities of intersecting walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward from the seat undersurface defining a plurality of downward openings;
- c. a first support flange attached to the first side frame front leg and a second support flange attached to the second side frame front leg, each support flange extending inwardly and capable of providing additional support to the seat when the seat is disposed in the first position; and

d. at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames, each support bracket including at least first and second support walls that are spaced from each other and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward to form at least one downward opening support recess, and wherein at least the first and second support walls each have a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar for support.

81. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 80:

a. wherein the walls in the first plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other and the walls in the second plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other, and the first and second pluralities of walls are substantially perpendicular to each other;

b. wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg by a first pivot bracket extending from the first side frame front leg, wherein the first support flange extends from the first pivot bracket, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the second side frame front leg by a second pivot bracket extending from the second side frame front leg, and wherein the second support flange extends from the second pivot bracket;

c. wherein each support bracket includes an upper support surface and at least a third support wall that is spaced from the first and second support walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from the upper support surface and cooperates with the first and second support walls to form at least two downward opening support recesses, and wherein the third support wall has a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar; and

d. wherein at least the first, second, and third support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by first, second, and third connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least three continuous walls with the respective support walls.

82. (currently amended) The ambulatory device according to any of claims 62, 67, 69, 76, 79, 80, or 81 wherein the seat, while in the first position, has a forward edge that curves inward and a rearward edge that curves inward, causing the seat to narrow in a central region thereof.

83. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to any of claims 69, 76, 79, 80, or 81 wherein the downwardly curving support brackets, while the seat is in the first position, rest on a central region of the respective cross bar.

84. (previously presented) A rollator comprising:

a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame arranged substantially vertically during use of the rollator, each side frame comprising:

- (1) a vertically adjustable front leg and a vertically adjustable back leg,
- (2) a cross bar connecting the front leg and the back leg,
- (3) an integral transverse horizontal support member between the front leg and the back leg,
- (4) a wheel disposed on an end of each leg such that the rollator is capable of rolling on a surface on four wheels,
- (5) an armrest disposed on the horizontal support member,
- (6) a pivot bracket mounted on the front leg and extending forward of the front leg;
- (7) a support flange extending inwardly relative to the front leg;

b. a braking mechanism associated with each side frame, the braking mechanism comprising:

- (1) a brake handle mounted on the horizontal support member,
- (2) a brake shoe disposed on the back leg and capable of frictional engagement with the wheel at the end of the back leg.
- (3) a cable for providing communication between the brake handle and the brake shoe;

c. a front brace connecting the front leg of each side frame, the front brace comprising:

(1) a first bushing through which the first side frame front leg extends and a second bushing through which the second side frame front leg extends,

(2) a curved tubular member joining the first bushing and the second bushing;

d. a molded plastic seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically, the seat comprising:

(1) a seat platform pivotally connected to the pivot brackets of the first and second side frames, the seat platform capable of engaging the support flanges when disposed in the first position, the seat platform comprising:

(i) a top seating surface,

(ii) an undersurface having first and second pluralities of intersecting walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward from the seat undersurface to form a plurality of downward openings,

(2) at least two integral downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames, each support bracket including at least first and second support walls that are spaced from each other and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward to form at least one downward opening support recess, and wherein at least the first and second support walls each have a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar for support; and

e. a flexible back support extending between the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg and above the front brace;

wherein each side frame is pivotable relative to the front brace by pivotable movement of the front legs in the first and second bushings and wherein the axis of rotation of the seat about the pivot brackets is offset forward of the front legs by at least the depth of the seat platform.

85. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 84:

a. wherein the walls in the first plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other and the walls in the second plurality of walls are substantially parallel to each other, and the first and second pluralities of walls are substantially perpendicular to each other;

b. wherein the first support flange extends from the first pivot bracket and the second support flange extends from the second pivot bracket;

c. wherein each support bracket includes an upper support surface and at least a third support wall that is spaced from the first and second support walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from the upper support surface and cooperates with the first and second support walls to form at least two downward opening support recesses, and wherein the third support wall has a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar; and

d. wherein at least the first, second, and third support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by first, second, and third connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least three continuous walls with the respective support walls.

86. (new) An ambulatory device, comprising:

a. a first side frame and a second side frame, each side frame having a front leg, a back leg, and a cross bar between the front leg and the back leg;

b. a seat pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg and the second side frame front leg, the seat capable of being disposed in a first position oriented substantially horizontally and a second position oriented substantially vertically;

c. at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of the cross bars of one of the side frames; and

d. at least a first continuous wall extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket, and that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from a seat undersurface;

wherein the downwardly curving support brackets, while the seat is in the first position, rest on a central region of the respective cross bar.

87. (currently amended) The ambulatory device according to claim 86, further comprising at least a second continuous wall extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket substantially parallel to the first continuous wall, and that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from a seat undersurface and cooperates with the first continuous wall to form at least one downward opening.

88. (previously presented) The ambulatory device according to claim 86 further comprising at least second and third continuous walls extending from one support bracket, under the seat, and to another support bracket substantially parallel to the first continuous wall, and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward from a seat undersurface and cooperate with the first continuous wall to form at least two downward openings.

89. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, further comprising two support brackets disposed to secure the seat to the frames when the seat is in the first position; wherein the support brackets provide support for the ambulatory device when the seat is in the first position such that when lateral force is applied to the side frames, the lateral force is distributed along the support brackets and across the seat.

90. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 89, wherein the support brackets comprise a top surface and one or more flanges extending substantially along the top surface.

91. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 90, wherein the support brackets further comprise one or more notches located in the one or more flanges.

92. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 91, wherein the notches are capable of being received by one or more portions of the side frames.

93. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, further comprising two support brackets disposed to secure the seat to said frames when said seat is in said first position.

94. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 93, wherein the support brackets comprise a top surface and one or more flanges extending substantially along said top surface.

95. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 94, wherein the support brackets further comprise one or more notches located in the one or more flanges.

96. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 95, wherein the notches are capable of being received by one or more portions of the side frames.

97. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 69, further comprising a first support flange attached to the first side frame front leg and a second support flange attached to the second side frame front leg, each support flange extending inwardly and capable of providing additional support to the seat when the seat is disposed in the first position.

98. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 97, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg by a first pivot bracket extending from the first side frame front leg, wherein the first support flange extends from the first pivot bracket, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the second side frame front leg by a second pivot bracket extending from the second side frame front leg, and wherein the second support flange extends from the second pivot bracket.

99. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 79, further comprising a first support flange attached to the first side frame front leg and a second support flange attached to the second side frame front leg, each support flange extending inwardly and capable of providing additional support to the seat when the seat is disposed in the first position.

100. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 99, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the first side frame front leg by a first pivot bracket extending from the first side frame front leg, wherein the first support flange extends from the first pivot bracket, wherein the seat is pivotally connected to the second side frame front leg by a second pivot bracket extending from the second side frame front leg, and wherein the second support flange extends from the second pivot bracket.

101. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 15, wherein the support brackets are formed integrally with the seat.

102. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 57, wherein the support brackets are formed integrally with the seat.

103. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 79, wherein the support brackets are formed integrally with the seat.

104. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, further comprising at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of a cross bar between the front leg and the second back leg of one of the side frames, each support bracket including at least first and second support walls that are spaced from each other and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward to form at least one downward opening support recess, and wherein at least the first and second support walls each have a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar for support.

105. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 104, wherein at least the first support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by a first connecting wall extending across

the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least one continuous wall with the respective support walls.

106. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 104, wherein at least the first and second support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by first and second connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least two continuous walls with the respective support walls.

107. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 104, wherein each support bracket includes an upper support surface and at least a third support wall that is spaced from the first and second support walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from the upper support surface and cooperates with the first and second support walls to form at least two downward opening support recesses, and wherein the third support wall has a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar.

108. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 79, further comprising at least two downwardly curving support brackets, each downwardly curving support bracket extending outwardly from the seat to engage a respective one of a cross bar between the front leg and the second back leg of one of the side frames, each support bracket including at least first and second support walls that are spaced from each other and that, while the seat is in the first position, extend downward to form at least one downward opening support recess, and wherein at least the first and second support walls each have a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar for support.

109. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 108, wherein at least the first support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by a first connecting wall extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least one continuous wall with the respective support walls.

110. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 108, wherein at least the first and second support walls for the downwardly curving support brackets are connected by first and second connecting walls, respectively, the connecting walls extending across the bottom of a seat undersurface to form at least two continuous walls with the respective support walls.

111. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 108, wherein each support bracket includes an upper support surface and at least a third support wall that is spaced from the first and second support walls that, while the seat is in the first position, extends downward from the upper support surface and cooperates with the first and second support walls to form at least two downward opening support recesses, and wherein the third support wall has a substantially inverted-U-shaped recess that, while the seat is in the first position, accepts the respective cross bar.

112. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein each support flange comprises an angle bracket.

113. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein at least a portion of each support flange extends substantially horizontally inwardly from the respective side frame front leg.

114. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein at least a portion of each support flange is disposed beneath a portion of the seat when the seat is in the first position.

115. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein at least a portion of each support flange is capable of engaging a portion of an undersurface of the seat when the seat is in the first position.

116. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein each support flange comprises at least one projection extending inwardly from the respective side frame front leg.

117. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein each support flange comprises a substantially flat projection extending inwardly from the respective side frame front leg.

118. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 67, wherein each support flange comprises a substantially rectangular projection extending inwardly from the respective side frame front leg.

119. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 68, wherein each pivot bracket comprises an angled bracket.

120. (new) The ambulatory device of claim 68, wherein each pivot bracket extends forward of the respective side frame front leg and the corresponding support flange extends substantially perpendicular to and inward from the respective pivot bracket.